

## Real World Consequences of the Ryan Budget

House Republican's Fiscal Year 2013 budget proposal introduced by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (Ryan budget) would end the Medicare guarantee for seniors while giving tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. The plan would put the entire burden of our economic recovery on the middle class, while cutting crucial infrastructure investment and eliminating millions of American jobs. Congressman John Tierney voted against this irresponsible measure when it was considered by the U.S. House of Representatives. Unfortunately, the Ryan budget passed the House on March 29, 2012 without any Democratic support.

The Ryan budget calls for \$897 billion in unspecified cuts but refuses to state where such cuts would be made. Experts have outlined the below as potential key impacts to our communities if the cuts are distributed evenly. **These cuts would have a devastating impact on our communities and families as they decrease support for critical services and eliminate job creating projects in industries like transportation, energy efficiency and education.**

### Education

- The Department of Education could be cut by more than \$115 billion over a decade. Should this happen, more than nine million students would see their Pell Grants fall by more than \$1000 in 2014. Over the next decade, more than one million students would lose support altogether. This could derail bipartisan education reforms and deeply undermine K-12 education and college opportunity.
- Roughly two million slots in Head Start could be eliminated over the next decade — cutting 200,000 children from the program in 2014 alone.
- More than six million students with disabilities could face decreased services and more than 30,000 special education teachers and other staff could lose their jobs.
- Teachers, tutors, and afterschool programs that help more than 3.8 million low-income and disadvantaged students in over 9,000 schools could lose \$2.7 billion in funding. 38,000 teachers and other staff could lose their jobs.

### Health Care

- Health care for seniors could be slashed by more than \$9 billion through cuts to Medicare.
- More than 300,000 Massachusetts residents could be forced off Medicaid.
- The number of uninsured in Massachusetts could increase by more than 225,000 people as a direct result of the Ryan budget's proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

### Investments in Our Future

- Funds for highway and infrastructure investment could be cut by more than \$14 billion in just one year which could lead to the loss of more than 7,000 jobs in Massachusetts alone.
- The Community Development Fund which funds the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is targeted for elimination in the Ryan budget.

- Could eliminate all funding for high speed rail as well as the New Starts and Small Starts programs, which support capital investment in locally planned, implemented, and operated transit services.
- Clean energy programs could be cut by 19 percent over the next decade, derailing efforts to put a million electric vehicles on the road by 2015, retrofit residential homes to save energy and consumers money, and make the commercial building sector 20 percent more efficient by 2022.
- Investments in science, medical research, space, and technology could be cut by more than \$100 billion over the next decade. If this were to happen, the number of new grants from NIH for promising research projects would shrink by more than 1,600 in 2014 and by over 16,000 over a decade, potentially curtailing or slowing research to fight Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and AIDS. The National Science Foundation would cut over 11,000 grants over the next decade, eliminating support for over 13,000 researchers, students, and teachers in 2014 alone.
- Annual job-training funds could be cut by \$500 million including an elimination of mandatory funding for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training Program, which enables community colleges to educate and train eligible workers for high-skilled, high-wage jobs.
- Hundreds of national parks could have to shut down for part of the year starting in 2014.

#### Critical Services for Our Families

- The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program which provides access to healthy foods for pregnant women, newborns and small children would be able to help about 1.8 million fewer women, infants, and children in 2014.
- More than 400,000 low-income families could lose critically important housing assistance by 2014.

#### Safety and Security

- More than 4,500 federal agents at the Department of Justice and the FBI who combat violent crime, pursue financial crimes, help secure the southwest border, and ensure national security could be eliminated by 2014. With these limited resources, the Federal government would be able to prosecute 160,000 fewer criminal cases over the next decade.
- Approximately 11,000 less workplace inspections to protect worker safety could occur by 2014. Basic enforcement of clean air and water laws could erode dramatically, with harmful effects on the health and well-being of the American people. We would not meet basic standards for food safety, putting the food we eat and serve our kids at risk.

**In contrast, Congressman Tierney supports an alternative approach that would protect the Medicare guarantee and the social safety net, help create jobs, make crucial investments in education and infrastructure and reduce the deficit in a fair and balanced way.** Without these critical resources from the Federal government, the already stretched budgets of our cities and towns will have to shoulder even more of the burden to provide for our families.